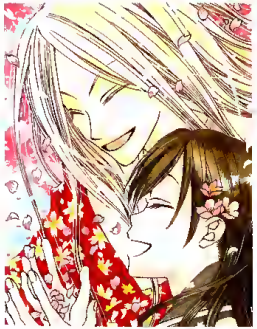
KUSAKAWA NARI'S BOOK

-FLOWER & DREAMS COMICS-
GERTRUDE'S RECIPE VOL. 5
MEGURU KAKUUTEI



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THROUGH	THE
WINDOW	...
WORLD	UNLIKE
OURS	...
...	KUUTE!
...	...

FLOWER & DREAM COMICS

>Contained<

After frail novelist Koyama Sasafune reads Yukimura Chidori's posthumous work "Kakuutei," he is pulled into the story! But after finding out that Kakuutei exists by draining life energy ...!? A fantastic love romance, in this volume! Also oneshot "999 Banme no Hana" included!!

[Showcased in LALA]

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Novelist Koyama Sasafune finds admired writer Yukimura Chidori's unpublished posthumous work, "Kakuutei"! After reading it, the Kakuutei within it becomes reality and pulls Sasafune in. Unfortunately Kakuutei exists by draining their visitors' life energy which is a big problem for frail Sasafune. He promises to bring the next visitor, but...!?

FLOWER & DREAM COMICS

MEGURU KAKUUTEI

KUSAKAWA NARI

This piece is fiction
The characters and events
depicted do not exist

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999 BANME NO HANA 139
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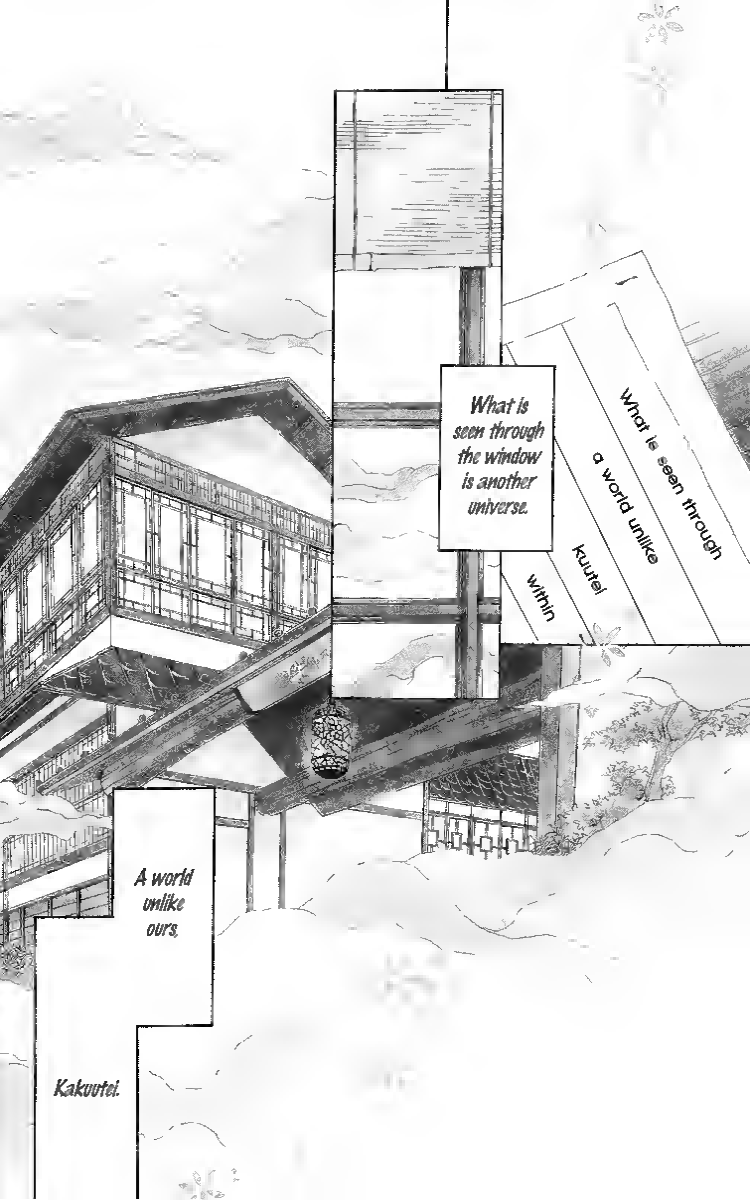
*T/N Meguru Kakuute loosely translates to "Surrounding a Place of Imagination"
999 Banme no Hana "The 999th flower"
Atogaki - Afterword

MEGURU KAKUTEI
PART 1


What is seen through the window is another universe.
What is seen through a world unlike Kuutei within
A world unlike ours,
Kakuutei.

If you ever come across a novel that begins that way...
You should be careful.
CLANK
...YOU SAID YOUR NAME WAS AMANAN, RIGHT?
.....

Maybe it's not this world?
NEVER MIND IT BEING A WORLD UNLIKE OURS, IT'S DEFINITELY NOT NORMAL.
THERE'S NO WAY!
I CAN'T STAY IN THIS INN.
I'll be leaving now...
GRAB
WAIT A SEC!
WE* WILL BE IN TROUBLE IF YOU LEAVE RIGHT AFTER COMING.
tug tug
CAN'T YOU STAY FOR A LITTLE LONGER?
*T/N: kanji is kakuutei
clank clank clank
DRINK A LITTLE TEA MAYBE? SASAFUNE-SAN.
tug tug tug..
OH, DON'T SAY THAT.
I'LL DECLINE.
It—it's on my shoulder..
YOU SAID YOU WERE A NOVELIST, RIGHT?
WE HAVE SOME JAPANESE WRITING PAPER HERE.
IT'LL BE LIKE WRITING IN A VACATION SPOT, RIGHT?

tug tug
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S PERFECT FOR YOU?~~~~
THERE'S INK AND A PEN.
ALSO A DESK AVAILABLE.
THE LIBRARY'S COMPLETE.
IT'S MORE RELEVANT TO THE TASTE OF THE PERSON WHO MADE THE PLACE
tug tug
IT'S ALSO PERFECT FOR YOU!
WELL, I DONT HATE IT.
yank
BUT THIS INN .
WOULD BE FATAL FOR ME!
DRAG DRAG

SASAFUNE!!
HOW DARE A COWARD LIKE YOU!
CRACK
DON'T THINK YOU'RE GETTING AWAY THAT EASILY.
I've gotten myself into an impossible mess...
ROKUSHO! KUKURA!
FLUTTER

Novelist Koyama Sasafime. (Real name and pen name).
2 hours ago.
cicada sound
RAMUNE ICE
BOY
PANT PANT
cicada sound
This is definitely impossible.

HELLO.
Oh, my neighbour.
OH, IT'S SASAFUNE-KUN.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE FOR THIS WEATHER.
I made it.
WOOZY
I BOUGHT YOUR NEW BOOK—
IT WAS INTERESTING THIS TIME TOO.
SIGN MINE LATER
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
PANT PANT
YOU'RE DOING SO GREAT EVEN BEING SO YOUNG.
HAVE YOU DECIDED ON WHAT YOU'LL WRITE ABOUT NEXT?
I'M CURRENTLY TRYING TO THINK OF A PLOT.
OH, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
YOU DON'T LOOK SO WELL. I KNOW YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A WEAK BODY AND YOU COLLAPSE EASILY.
ugh

To Sakafune
I'll be out with Grandma for a bit.
Dad
OH, THEY'RE OUT.
silence...
I'M HOME--
CRUNCH
clank
GRAMPS
ISN'T HERE EITHER.

CHILL
...THE AIR CONDITIONER'S BEEN LEFT ON
WONDER IF THEY'RE COMING RIGHT BACK
I'm the second novelist in our family.
Our first was during the Meiji era.
A man named Yukimura Chidori.
He passed from this world at 29 years old due to illness.
It's said that the final novel he was writing before his death, was left unpublished and is missing.
CRACK

With the help of a (former) Japanese teacher and a Yukimura researcher, my grandfather's library...
I've read all of the others.
They were all strange tales.
What's this box?
Some day
a stroke of the brush that the soul may not reside in.
"Kakuutei"
Yukimura Chidori
INSIDE
A MANUSCRIPT

"KAKUUTE!"
YUKIMURA CHIDORI
HUH?
What is
been
A world
unlike
ours
THIS IS...

...UNPUBLISHED
THIS REALLY IS YUKIMURA'S FINAL NOVEL
A suspicious inn conveyed through the faded and dishevled handwriting.
Since when did Gramps have this!?
And why would he hide it...?

THUMP
RUB
THUMP
WHA—
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
WHA—
THUMP

KAKUUTE!
BAM

Bla
:
nk
Glance
Glance
.....
UMM...
WHERE IS THIS PLACE?
SASAFUNE
YOU READ IT? THAT MANU-SCRIPT.
IT'S YOUR TURN NOW.

WAIT A SECOND, WHERE IS THIS PLACE?
FROM TODAY ON, THIS INN IS GOING TO BE USED BY YOU TO YOUR LIKING.
IT WAS MY HAPPY SECRET FOR MANY YEARS, BUT
THANKS TO YOU, IT'S GOODBYE TO EVERYONE HERE.
GRAMPS!?
This voice.
THIS PLACE, SASAFUNE
IS WHEN THE SOUL OF THE NOVEL "KAKUUTE!" IS VISUALIZED.
KAKUUTE!
IF IT ATTACHES ITSELF TO SOMEONE WHO'S READ THE MANUSCRIPT,
IT ALLOWS YOU TO ENTER IT LIKE THIS

WHEN THE SOUL...?
THE AUTHOR'S FEELINGS TOWARDS IT MUST HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONAL.
WHILE IT'S ATTACHED TO YOU, YOU'RE ABLE TO RETURN HERE AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WANT
BUT IT WILL NEVER REATTACH ITSELF TO THE SAME PERSON TWICE.
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S BEEN THROUGH MANY PEOPLE'S HANDS BEFORE IT CAME TO ME TOO.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN FATE FOR IT TO REACH YOU.
IT'S A GOOD PLACE TREAT IT WELL.

So if you jump from this cloud, you return to the room..
Well! See you at the house!
HOP
OUR NEWEST GUEST.
WELCOME.
I see, this is...

The vision of it dwelling within a soul...
Come out now—!!
Where are you?
PATTER PATTER PATTER
FANT FANT
It's dwelling too much

Sssshhhzzz
Crap I can't figure my way around here.
PANT
creak
I was careless.
The reason Kakuutei invites guests in...
EXIT
This way.
PANT
Sigh
EXIT
is that the guests pay.
AHH— YOU'RE DECEIVING ME!!
Up you go up you go
EXIT
BATHROOM

STAY HERE FOR A BIT LONGER—!
AHH—
Slam
SO, WHAT'S THE RIGHT DIRECTION?
THIS IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH FOR ME.
scratch scratch
PLOP
HEY, ARE YOU HIDING YOUR KILLING INTENT WITH THAT CUTE FACE OF YOURS—?
PATTER
PATTER
PATTER
DON'T BLAME KUKURA!
IT'S A LIFE OR DEATH SITUATION HERE TOO
PATTER

HOWEVER MUCH YOU ARGUE, NO THANKS
While inside, they drain away the human's life force.
That's what Kakuriel is.
And that's how it continues to exist.
YOU JUST NEED TO SHARE A LITTLE HERE AND THERE
THERE'S NO WAY WE'D TAKE ENOUGH LIFE FORCE TO KILL A GUEST HERE

GRAMPS IS NATURALLY A HEALTHY GUY.
I'M DIFFERENT
YOUR GRANDPA YOSHIFUNE IS 70 YEARS OLD
HE'S GOTTEN HOME FULL OF ENERGY RIGHT?
.....
WAVER...
I'M...
SASAFUNE!?
SLUMP
FLICKER
BLINK

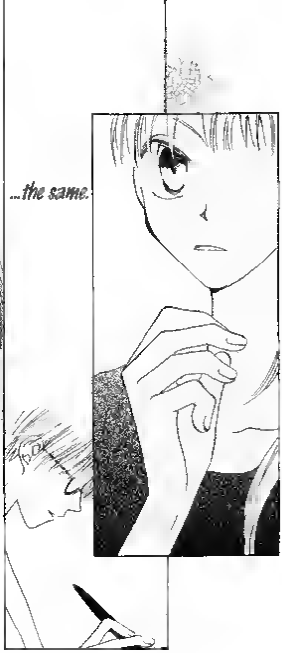
YOU'RE CONSCIOUS.
AMANAN ?
CAN YOU GET UP?
I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SO FRAIL.
SORRY FOR CHASING YOU AROUND SO MUCH.
YEAH, I'M FINE.
giggle
.. YOU'RE A BIT LIKE YUKIMURA

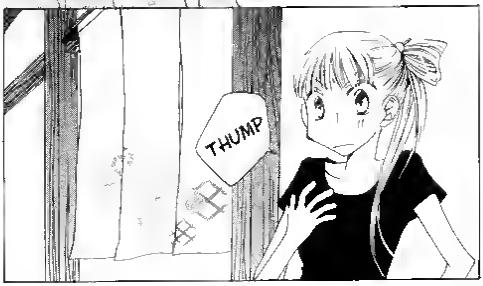
IT'S WORSE THAN WE EXPECTED
WHAT'S WITH THIS SAD LOOKING RICE?
"SASAFUNE RICE."
IT'S THE FOOD WE HAVE TO EAT THAT WAS CREATED BY YOUR LIFE ENERGY.

Hmmmmm
YOUR LIFE ENERGY IS CYCLED INTO KAKULITE!
AND SPREAD OUT AROUND THE BUILDING.
IT ENTERS OUR BODIES AS FOOD, BUT...
IT'S A LOT WORSE THAN EXPECTED
This is me...
YEAH.
IN COMPARISON, THIS IS OUR FINAL YOSHIFUNE MEAL

Hello and maybe nice to meet you
Thank you very much for taking up this comic today
Recently I removed my upper wisdom teeth that have been with me for 4 years They were growing so well that they pulled out of my gums easily
But I took x-rays and found out that my bottom right and left are also growing in
After hearing stories about pulling those out I feel as though I'd like to pretend they don't exist

I took home the teeth I had pulled out
They're pretty ugly





But
LET'S LOOK FOR A NEW OCCUPANT!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. WE CAN'T PUSH SASAFUNE TOO MUCH.
Incorrect.
He's a "different" novelist
there.
WHAT?
TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, LOOK FOR SOMEONE FOR US

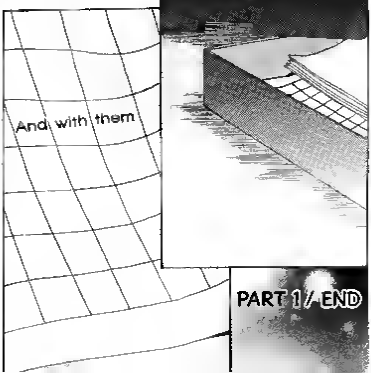
THE PEOPLE WHO STARTED OFF IN KAKULITE! CAN'T LEAVE
SO I WANT YOU TO FIND SOMEONE AND LET THEM READ THE MANUSCRIPT
IS THAT SO?
SO THE PEOPLE LIVING HERE DON'T CHOOSE THE PEOPLE TO ATTACH TO?
Even if I was an exception
NO
WE'RE JUST PASSED ALONG FROM PERSON TO PERSON
WHAT IF YOU GET SOMEONE UNFORTU-NATE?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IT'S HAPPENED, SO I WANT YOU TO DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT
I SEE

I'LL DO SOMETHING.
IT'LL PROBABLY BE A SHORT CORRESPONDENCE, BUT I HOPE WE GET ALONG WELL.
THEN SASAFUNE, LET ME FORMALLY INTRODUCE YOU.
THIS IS KUKURA
LIKE A HOUSEKEEPER.
RO-KUSHO
OUR CHEF.
I'M AMANAN.
THE ONE WHO WATCHES OVER KAKUUTEI.
I'M THE LANDLADY OF THE PLACE.

And with them

slip by the name of

Sasafune



Meguru Kakuutei

v01 c01

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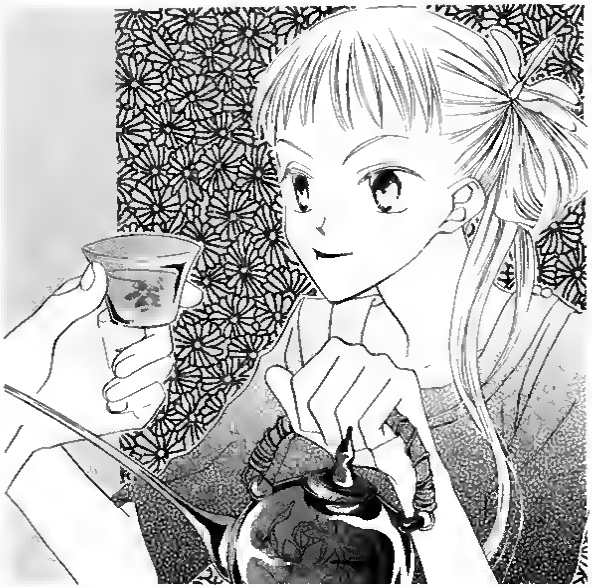
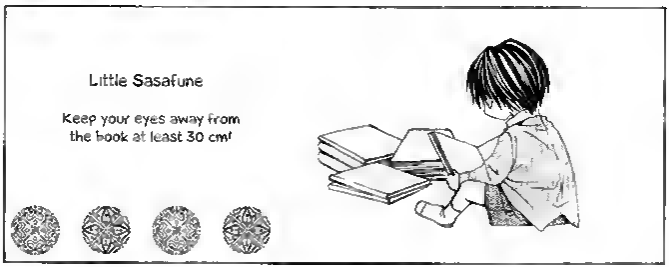
Before the story

I still don't have Amanan's eyeshadow
I was planning on having this and a quick doodle in
the middle as a kind of present but I felt like something
was missing and added some coloring to her eyes
And that's when it happened Normally I have one crease
on my eyelid, but depending on my health and other factors,
sometimes it becomes two But now for some reason,
one of them has one crease and the other has two
It's been like this for 3 weeks I wonder if it'll ever go back ...?



What we want to capture...
is of this level
MAKOU?
THIS IS SASA-FUNE
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU THAT'S RE-LATED TO YUKIMURA CHIDORI
If my frail self Koyama Sasafune was a food...
It would apparently be like this.

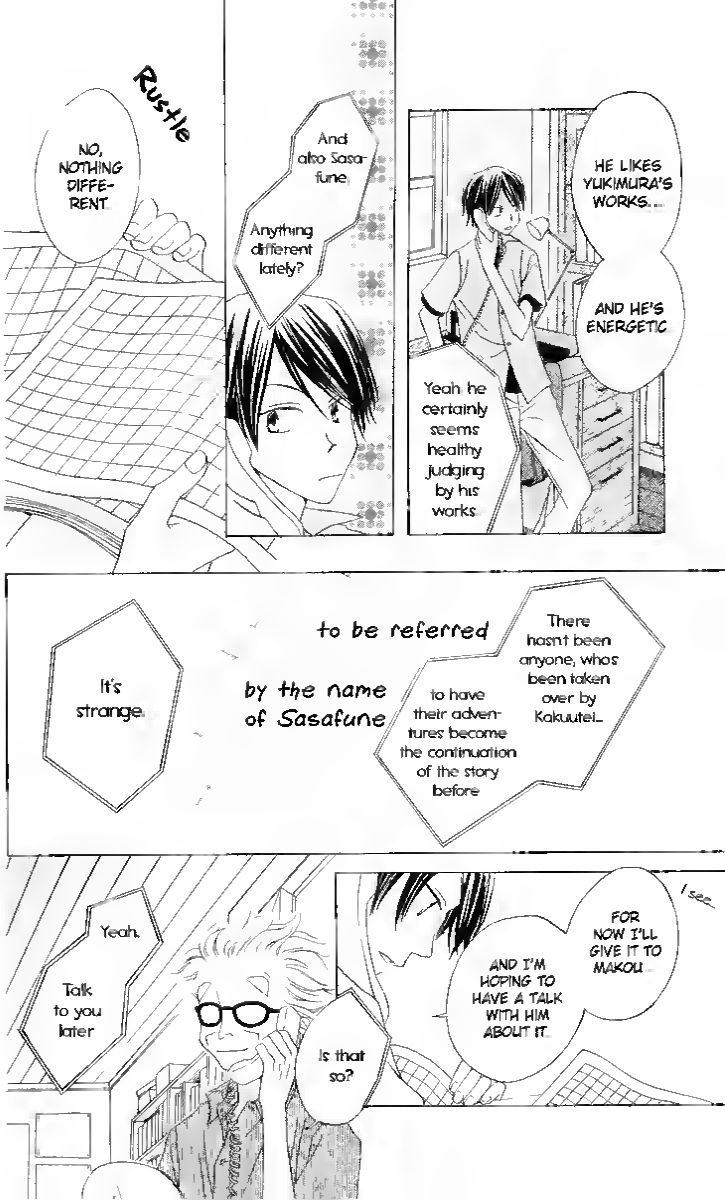

Little Sasafune
Keep your eyes away from the book at least 30 cm!

MEGURU KAKIUTEI
PART 2

Two days ago...
I was inhabited by a strange entity in my grandpa's room...
By an inn named Kakuutei and its inhabitants.
They are supposedly the creation of the unpublished manuscript of Yukimura Chidori's novel...
when given a form through a soul.
KAKUUTEI
BEFORE CHOOSING...
LET ME EXPLAIN HOW TO ACCESS THIS PLACE, SASAFUNE.

See!
AS IT WAS THE FIRST TIME, WE DRAGGED YOU IN WITHOUT WARNING...
BUT FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL USE THESE.
YOU GET THIS ENTRANCE TICKET.
IF YOU PULL OFF THE TICKET STUB, YOU CAN ENTER HERE.
AND IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE WRITE THEIR NAME HERE, THEY CAN ENTER WITH YOU.
HUH.
Kayama Sasafune
Entrance Ticket
ENTRANCE TICKET.
COMPLIMENTARY TICKET.
CORRECT.
Was that the meaning of complimentary?
When you become so keenly that there's no other choice.
AND THIS COMPLIMENTARY TICKET...
IS USED WHEN WE INVITE YOU IN FREE OF CHARGE.
...BUT IF THE NEXT GUEST IS FOUND QUICKLY...
THERE WON'T BE A NEED FOR EITHER OF THESE.

Kakuutei isn't a bad place, but...
because it lives by sucking away human energy...
both myself and Kakuutei need to find a sturdy kind of guest to sustain ourselves.
RINGGGGG
YES.
OH, GRAMPS
How's it going, Sasafune? Will you be able to find a good host for them?
kinda
I'm going to have him read 'it' soon.
He's a novelist like me, Karai Makou.
AH.


Rustle
NO, NOTHING DIFFERENT.
And also Sasafune.
Anything different lately?
HE LIKES YUKIMURA'S WORKS...
AND HE'S ENERGETIC
Yeah, he certainly seems healthy judging by his works.
It's strange.
to be referred by the name of Sasafune
There hasn't been anyone, who's been taken over by Kakuutei...
to have their adventures become the continuation of the story before
I see...
FOR NOW I'LL GIVE IT TO MAKOU...
AND I'M HOPING TO HAVE A TALK WITH HIM ABOUT IT.
Is that so?
Yeah.
Talk to you later

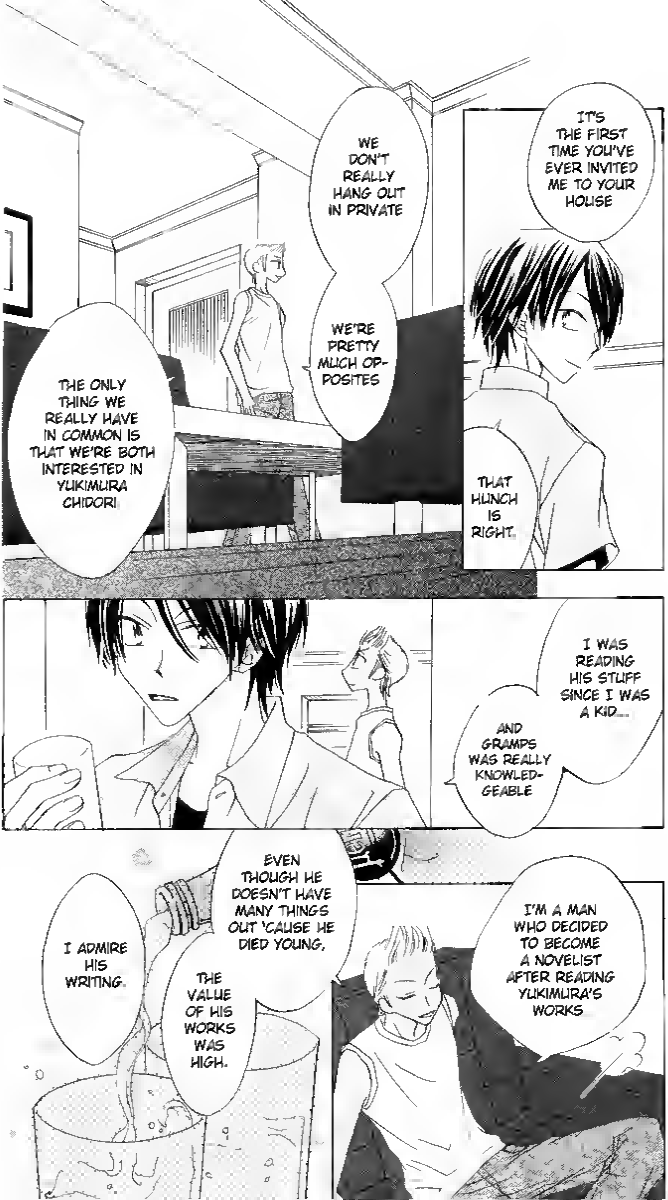
Kakuutei's Inhabitant's names

I knew I wanted to use the word boat (kanji - fune) in a name and when I put bamboo grass (kanji - sasa) in front of it it seemed like a perfect name. Very frail and delicate. In the case of Amanan, it was the image of high energy and how she would have enjoyable chats with her guests. On the other hand, Rokusho has the kanji of poison (kanji - doku) in it. Kukura's name has warehouse (kanji - kura) in it. Yukimura's family name was inspired from the designs on kimonos

Kakuutei appearing for me...
was fate, according to Cramps.
SHIT
EITHER WAY, IF IT MOVES ON TO THE NEXT PERSON IN 2 DAYS..
IT'S NOT MUCH OF A FATE, IS IT?

WHAT KIND OF PERSON...
COULD OUR NEXT GUEST BE LIKE.
stomach rumble
AAAAAA-HHH~~~~
rumble
COLLAPSE
I'M STARV-ING!
SASAFUNE, IS THE NEW GUEST HERE YET~~~~~
I THOUGHT HE SAID HE HAD SOME KIND OF LEAD.
(Dog)
DINGDONG

Target's occupation: novelist
KARAI MAKOU
OPEN DOOR
HIYA SASAFUNE!
THANKS FOR INVITING ME OVER
COME ON IN
WELL, THAT'S FINE.
YOU LOOK AS UN-NOVELIST LIKE AS EVER.
YOU LOOK AS FRAIL AS ALWAYS.
How do you want me to cook this?
Eat this or something.
SLAM
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA SHOW ME, SASA-FUNE?
MY HUNCHES TELL ME IT'S GOING TO BE SOMETHING REALLY GREAT..

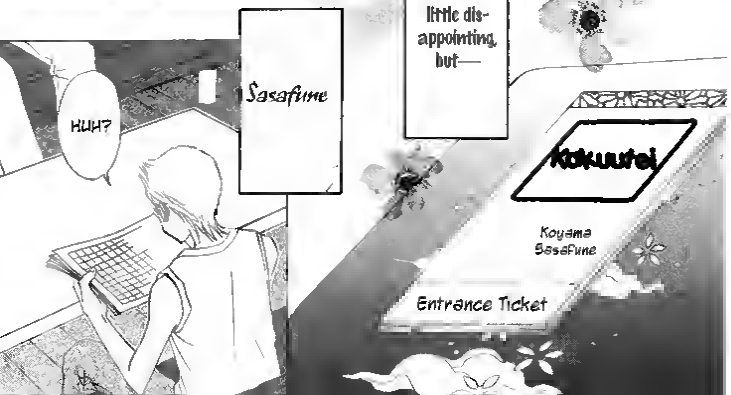

IT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER INVITED ME TO YOUR HOUSE
THAT HUNCH IS RIGHT.
WE DON'T REALLY HANG OUT IN PRIVATE
WE'RE PRETTY MUCH OPPOSITES
THE ONLY THING WE REALLY HAVE IN COMMON IS THAT WE'RE BOTH INTERESTED IN YUKIMURA CHIDORI
I WAS READING HIS STUFF SINCE I WAS A KID...
AND GRAMPS WAS REALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE
I'M A MAN WHO DECIDED TO BECOME A NOVELIST AFTER READING YUKIMURA'S WORKS
EVEN THOUGH HE DOESN'T HAVE MANY THINGS OUT 'CAUSE HE DIED YOUNG,
THE VALUE OF HIS WORKS WAS HIGH.
I ADMIRE HIS WRITING.

"Kakuutei"
Yukimura Chidori
READ THIS.
IF ONLY I COULD WRITE LIKE THAT...
...I THINK THE SAME WAY.
THIS IS IT, MAKOU.
As promised,
he'd be a good guest, wouldn't he, Amanan?

HEY... WHAT IS THIS "KAKULITEI" THING...
THIS ISN'T IN THE LIST OF YUKIMURA'S WORKS!?
IT CAN'T BE..
YEAH, IT'S THE MISSING MANUSCRIPT FOR HIS FINAL NOVEL.
I KNEW IT! IT'S AN AMAZING FIND!!
WHY DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
LET'S JUST SAY THROUGH A COURSE OF EVENTS.
COURSE OF EVENTS ..?
ANYWAY READ IT.
YOU CAN SAVE BEING SURPRISED FOR AFTER-WARDS
What is seen
a world unlike ours
Kakuritei

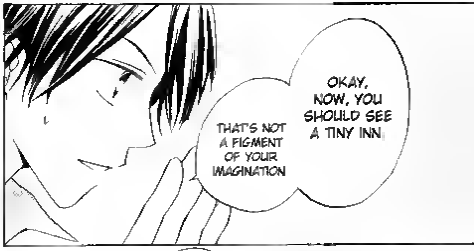
CICADA
CICADA

FLIP
To think that this may lead to never seeing them again...
Is a little dis-appointing, but—


Sasafune
HUH?
Kokuutei
Koyama Sasafune
Entrance Ticket

I DON'T SEE ANY-THING.
.....huh?

OKAY, YOU'VE READ UP TO THAT POINT!?
FUSHI FUSHI
FOR SOME REASON YOUR NAME'S COMING UP IN HERE!?


THAT'S NOT A FIGMENT OF YOUR IMAGINATION
OKAY, NOW, YOU SHOULD SEE A TINY INN

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHY ARE YOU BEING WRITTEN ABOUT IN THIS NOVEL?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT

GLANCE
WHERE'S SOME-THING?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
THINK OF IT AS A PERSONAL FAVOR AND GO THERE
LOOK AROUND YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE IT

Is there something around here?
YEAH.
THERE'S NOTHING THERE..?
YOU READ IT THOROUGHLY, RIGHT?
YEAH, I DID.
SO..
MAKOU, IT'S AN INN!? A TINY INN.
KAKUUTEI AROUND THE SIZE OF YOUR PALM!!
..THERE'S NOTHING?
CAN YOU WRITE YOUR NAME HERE?
SLIDE
Huh..?
S... SURE.
He's not being taken over by Kakuutei—?

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
WHAT THE HELL!?
MAKOU...
THIS IS WHAT I WANTED TO SHOW YOU.
RIP
BAM

KA...
KAKULITE!...!?
STAMPEDE
WELCOME—!!
THERE'RE INHABITANTS TOO!?
SASAFUNE, WHAT'S GOING ON?
STAMPEDE

KUKURA, PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE, RIGHT?
SASA-FUNE—
YES
YES MA'AM.
TAKE KARAI-SAMA TO THE TATAMI ROOM!!
WHAA—
ROKUSHO, GET THE FEAST AND LEFTOVERS PREPARED.
Sigh
straight for
YOINK
Up you go!

SORRY FOR THE RUSH THERE
WE WERE ALL HUNGRY, SO FORGIVE US
Got a little excited
.. YEAH
No, it's alright

WELL ABOUT THAT..
EVEN WHEN I LET MAKOU READ THE MANU-SCRIPT
KAKUUITEI DIDN'T TRANSFER AWAY FROM ME
DIDN'T THINK YOU'D USE THE TICKET

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A GUEST LIKE THAT BEFORE..
WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT WOULDN'T TRANSFER AWAY?
I THOUGHT IF I ASKED YOU I'D FIND OUT..
So you didn't know
THEN MAYBE..
WHY?!
DUNNO
WHO KNOWS
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT I'M BEING WRITTEN ABOUT IN THE MANUSCRIPT EITHER..?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

HRM?
—I SEE.
THE NOVEL POSSESSES A SOUL.
HOW AMA-ZING.
YEAH.

YUKIMURA'S "KAKUUITE" MUST HAVE HAD SOME EXTRAORDINARY EMOTIONS CONNECTED TO IT
OR SO MY GRAMPS SAYS.
BUT STILL... TO BE ABLE TO WRITE A NOVEL THAT A SOUL CAN BE CREATED IN...
YEAH.
THAT'S BEING PROVEN HERE.
DOES THE FOOD...
MATCH YOUR TASTES?
Oh, it's R.o-kusho.
YEP, IT'S DELICIOUS.
I'M GLAD.
Sigh
THANKS.

I wonder if my novels...
are as lively as this is..
BUT I WONDER IF THE EVENTS HAPPENING NOW ARE ALSO APPEARING IN THE MANUSCRIPT...?
MAYBE THE NAME MAKOU IS IN THERE TOO.
WELL, WOULDN'T THAT BE AN HONOR...
THAT WOULD MEAN THAT THE ACTIONS HAPPENING HERE AND WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MANUSCRIPT...
ARE INTERCONNECTED, RIGHT...?
-huh?
YEAH, PROBABLY.

THEN IN OTHER WORDS, SINCE THINGS THAT HAPPENED HERE ARE BEING WRITTEN IN THE MANUSCRIPT...
WELL, THAT'S.
RUSTLE
WHAT'S WRITTEN IN THE MANUSCRIPT WILL BECOME REALITY HERE..?
SASAFUNE

WE CAN FIGURE IT OUT WHILE WE'RE HERE.
DON'T YOU WANT TO TEST IT OUT?
NOW.
I WON'T TOUCH THE ORIGINAL WRITING.
ARE YOU..
THINKING OF WRITING SOMETHING IN THE MANUSCRIPT!?
IF THE WRITING BECOMES REALITY
BUT..
I JUST WANT TO TEST MY OWN POWER
Grin

HOP!
BEHOLD THE IMAGES FROM MY NOVEL'S WORLD!!
STEP
Eeeep!
WAIT, MAKOU!
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T DO ANYTHING BAD!

I SAID WAIT!
MAKOU!!
POOF
...I'LL GO AND TRY TO STOP HIM.
BUT SASA-FUNE,
HE SAID HE WASN'T PLANNING ANYTHING BAD.
What a waste of an energetic guy.
THAT BASTARD~
WHAT IS HE PLANNING TO WRITE?

AND HE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE A BAD GUY...
WELL THAT'S TRUE..
BUT TO THINK HE'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS
AMANAN, I'M SORRY
IT WAS MY ERROR OF JUDGE-MENT.
SCRATCH

MY APOLOGIES
IF THE DIRECTIONS OF THE CLOUDS BECOME STRANGE,
LET'S HAVE YOU GO BACK, SASAFUNE.
WHAT KIND OF REACTION IS THAT...
Octopus punching?
shake shake
chatter
chatter
IT'S NOTHING.
ANYWAY, LET'S KEEP AN EYE OUT ON THINGS
BREEZE

WHAT'S WRONG, AMANAN?
THERE WAS SOME KIND OF LUKEWARM WIND...
breeze
SEE, AGAIN.
clank
shudder
tap
tap
tap
AHH-HHH~~~
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU, SASAFUNE.
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT GENRE DOES KARAI MAKOU WRITE?

SPINE TINGLING, HAIR RAISING CLASSICAL HORROR
flutter
tap tap tap
flutter
tap tap tap
flutter
tap tap tap
PART 2 / END

Meguru Kakuutei

v01 c02

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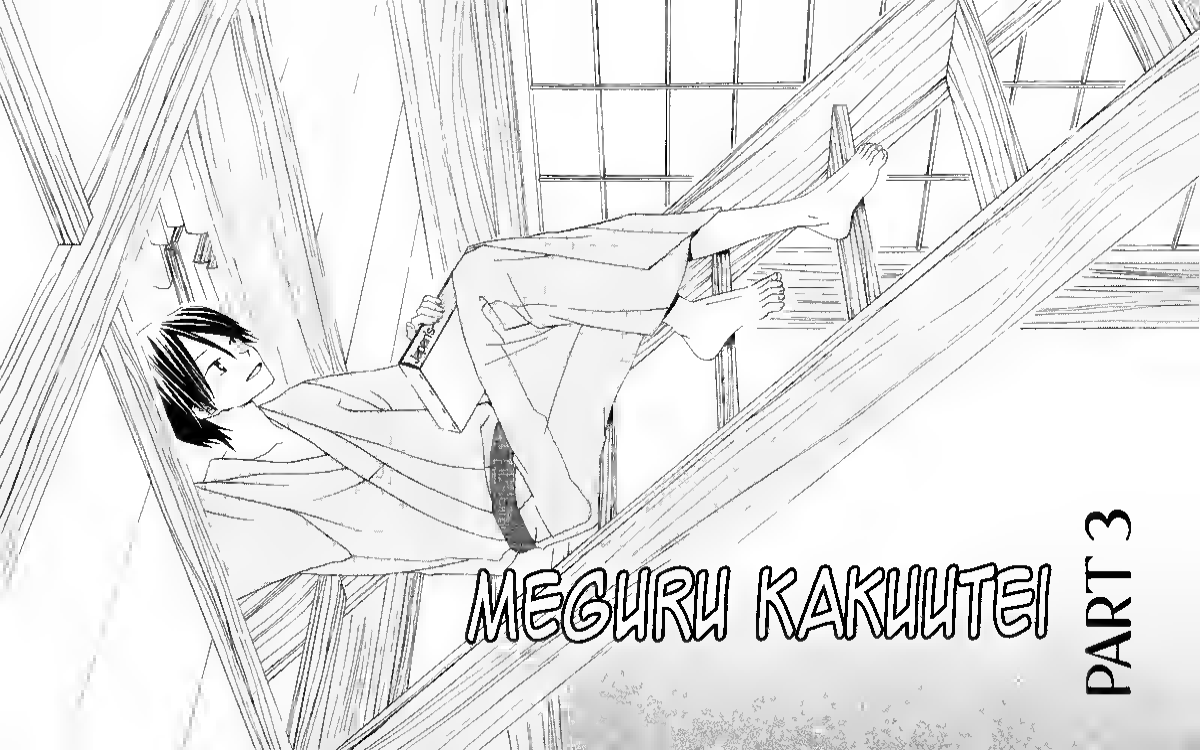
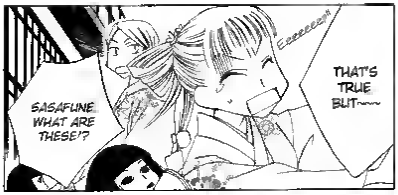

MEGURU KAKUUTEI
PART 3

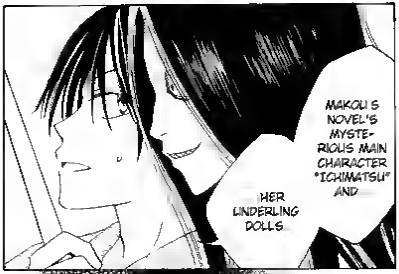
BLUNT
NO THANKS
HORROR IS NO GOOD
IT'S SCARY!
AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'VE SPENT OUR WHOLE LIVES AT PEACE HERE
Hmm
HORROR, HUH.
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL GO BACK AND STOP MAKOU
WAIT FOR ME
Phew
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU—
Big Sasafune
Thankfully his eyes are healthy

TOO BAD, IT'S TOO LATE
IT'S STARTING
SCRIBBLE
Light
—IT APPEARED

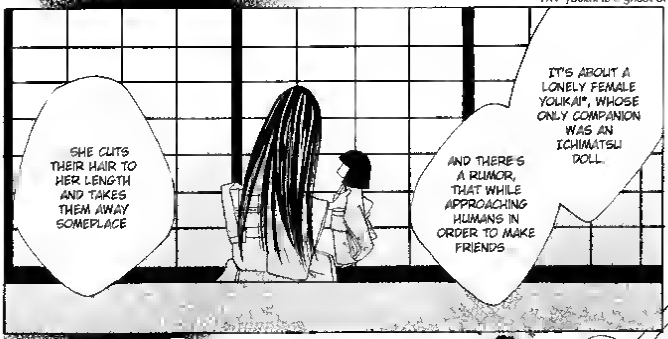
GRAB
I have to hurry
hustle
HEY!
Ahhhhhh.
yank
Shortttttt shortttttt...
OUCH OUCH OUCH OUCH.
YANK YANK
SASA-FUNE!
Woah!
SWISH

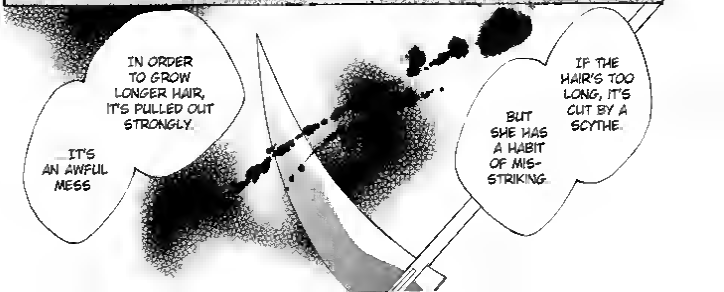
Eee!
Yank yank
Longgggg longgggg...
THIS IS A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE DOLL!?
OUCH
WHY DO YOU GRAB MY HAIR?
OUCH
Yank yank
AHHHH!
THEY'RE OVER HERE TOO!
HERE TOO!
EEEEEE!
STARE
SCARY





*T/N youkai is a ghost or phantom


IT'S ABOUT A LONELY FEMALE YOUKAI*, WHOSE ONLY COMPANION WAS AN ICHIMATSU DOLL.
AND THERE'S A RUMOR, THAT WHILE APPROACHING HUMANS IN ORDER TO MAKE FRIENDS
SHE CUTS THEIR HAIR TO HER LENGTH AND TAKES THEM AWAY SOMEPLACE


IF THE HAIR'S TOO LONG, IT'S CUT BY A SCYTHE.
BUT SHE HAS A HABIT OF MIS-STRIKING.
IN ORDER TO GROW LONGER HAIR, IT'S PULLED OUT STRONGLY.
IT'S AN AWFUL MESS

Al-
most!!!!!!!
LOVE
LOVE
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SO FOCUSED ON YOUR HAIR
Al-
most!!!!!!!
SWIPE
TRICKLE

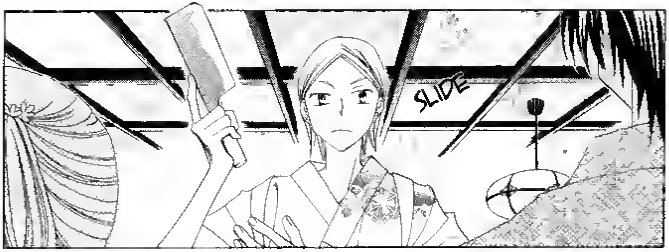
It's the same
Sikeda
It's the same
!!
GRIN
Let's go together.
Two
Kukuru was
in order to
wouldn't budge
SLIDE
ALRIGHT!
IT'S A PANIC LIKE I INTENDED
scratch scratch
A HORROR WRITER'S FAVORABLE OUTCOME
SASAFUNE'S TRYING TO THROW OFF ICHIMATSU
I GUESS FOR NOW I'LL LET IT LOOK LIKE HE'S ABLE TO DO SO
scratch
"ICHIMATSU SEEMED TO WEAKEN—

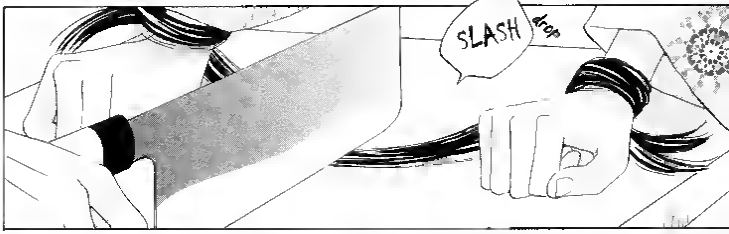
...AND SHE TRIPPED ON A CLOUD *
!
SHUFFLE
CHOP
GRAB
SLIDE
GRAB

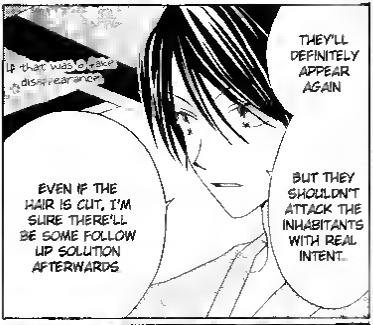
THE DOLLS, TOO.
OH, THEY'RE DISAPPEARING!
SHE...
SHE FELL...
YAAAY!
THANK GOODNESS...
AS LONG AS I'M CONNECTED TO A KAKUUITEI INDIVIDUAL...
WHO CAN'T LEAVE THIS PLACE...
...IT MEANS I CAN'T LEAVE EITHER.
How disgusting...
SASAFUNE, THIS...
IT WON'T COME OFF...
THIS IS BAD

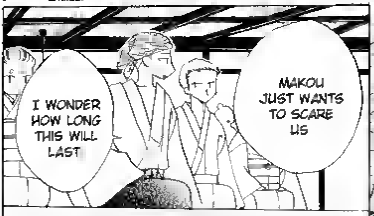
Kakuutei's inhabitants' models

The only ones in the story who I really had a model for were Yukimura Chidori and Yoshifune. Even though exactly who is a secret. Yukimura was modeled after the image of someone related to a school I was in. Then again the only real part was that he died young ? And a Japanese teacher was studying him so I guess that's about it. Later on I decided to use that to make Yoshifune's occupation (formally a Japanese teacher)


SLIDE


SLASH
drop


If that was a case of disappearance...
THEY'LL DEFINITELY APPEAR AGAIN
BUT THEY SHOULDN'T ATTACK THE INHABITANTS WITH REAL INTENT...
EVEN IF THE HAIR IS CUT, I'M SURE THERE'LL BE SOME FOLLOW UP SOLUTION AFTERWARDS


I WONDER HOW LONG THIS WILL LAST
MAKOU JUST WANTS TO SCARE US

IT'S NOT WORKING...
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE CUT.
SO THE LAST OF WHAT WE HAVE HERE AT KAKUUTEI FAILED

LANDLADY, BE CALM! BE CALM!
EITHER WAY IT'S SCARY...
AND THE LAST WAY?
I PERSONALLY THINK IT'D BE THE FASTEST WAY BUT...
...IF I SAY IT, MAKOU WILL KNOW.
I CAN'T SAY.
1
THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO BRING THIS TO AN END.
#1. KEEP FIGHTING BACK UNTIL MAKOU GETS TIRED OF IT.
2
#2. MAKOU GETS ENOUGH SATISFACTION OF SCARING THE PEOPLE HERE.
SO I WANT EACH OF YOU TO THINK HARD.
ESPECIALLY YOU, AMANAN
SINCE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO RUNS THIS PLACE, RIGHT?

YEAH.
YEAH.
FOR NOW HE KNOWS THAT WE ARE ALL TOGETHER.
FOR NOW, IT'S A MATTER OF FIGHTING BACK OR RUNNING.
EVEN IF WE GROUP UP WHO KNOWS WHEN THEY'LL COME BACK AGAIN.
WHY DON'T WE TOUGHEN UP AND GO AFTER THEM OUR-SELVES?
THE MORE WE ANTICI-PATE THE SCARIER IT SEEMS.
FOR NOW, THERE'S NO DANGER

Our home
is
Oh, finally!
Where
is your home?
Trying to force courage for themselves
SOUNDS GOOD!
Sweet land
Sigh
I'M GETTING WORN OUT
YEAH
SORRY THAT I CAN'T PUSH MYSELF MUCH THOUGH
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
'CAUSE YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR SOME TIME NOW

YUKIMURA PUSHED HIMSELF TOO HARD AND...?
NO NO, PUSHING YOURSELF IS BAD
LET'S REST.
It's not really going to help us and anything out but.
HIS ILLNESS GOT WORSE
IF HE HADN'T BEEN FOCUSING SO HARD ON HIS MANUSCRIPT, HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LIVE A LITTLE LONGER.
EVERYONE WAS OVERJOYED TO MEET HIM.
HE ALSO CAME HERE IN PERSON BEFORE HE DIED.
YUKIMURA CHIPPED AWAY AT HIS OWN LIFE TO GRANT US SOULS.

YUKIMURA WAS PROBABLY HAPPY TOO
hm
...WHY IS HE NOT HAPPY?
IT'S NOT THAT
HE SEEMED HAPPY
HE LOOKED IN EVERY-ONE'S EYES AND CALLED THEM BY NAME.
BUT....
HE NEVER CALLED MY NAME.
HIS EYES ALSO WENT PAST MINE, SOMEWHERE DISTANT.

I WASN'T SURE...
OF THE REASON
I WONDER IF THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME
HMMM...
crack
crack
crack
crack
bre
ze

AHHHH
THE LIGHT
IT'S PITCH BLACK OUTSIDE TOO.
AHHHH!
EVERY-ONE, CALM DOWN
THIS IS A CLASSIC HORROR OPENING
AHHHHH!
CALM DOWN.
HMMM
I'M THE MASTER AT THWARTING PEOPLE LIKE THAT...
HAVING THEM COME AT ME ISN'T BAD BUT...
GRIN
?
RUB

SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE AROUND ALL OF US.
Eeeeep!
Ahhhhh!
Ahhhhh!
WE'RE SURROUNDED BY DOLLS!
SASAFUNE! IT'S THE DOLLS!

TURN
AHHHHHHH— I'M SORRY!!!
EEP!
grab
tug
HURRY UP AND GO HOME~~~
Let's go together.
Let's go together.
Let's go together.
Okay?

I'm lonely.
I've always been
—the same as me.
lonely.
AMANAN

I wonder if this is why he affects me so much.
DID YOU FIGURE OUT THE THIRD WAY?
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, LANDLADY OF KAKUUTEI.

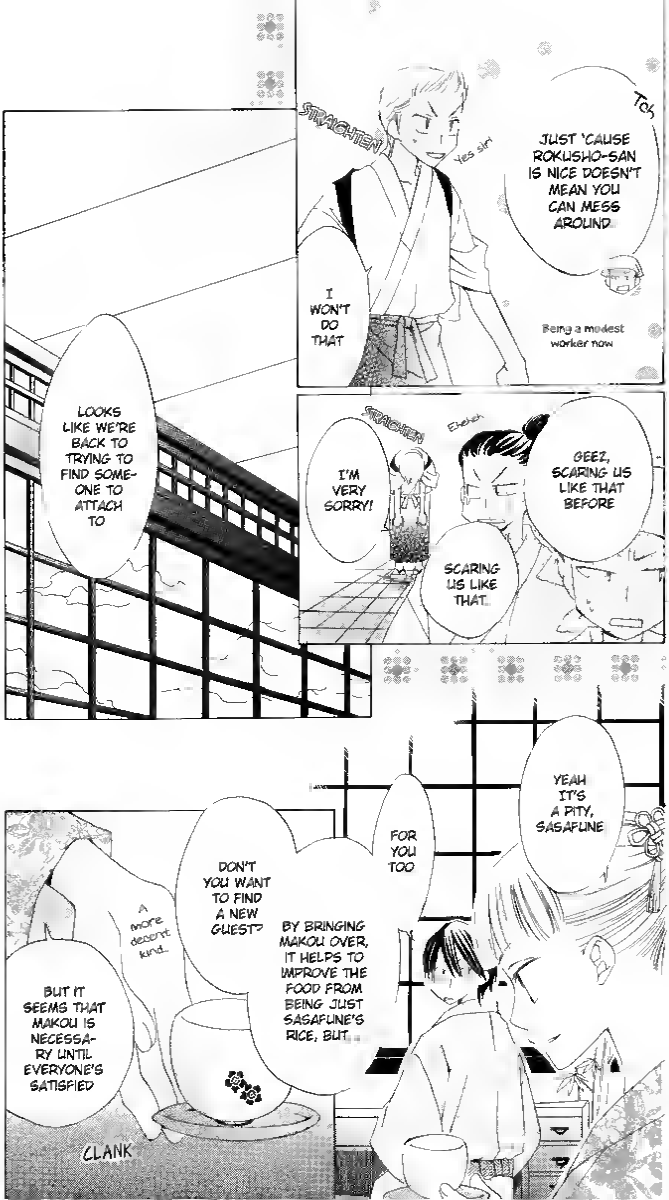
GRAB
That straight-forward gaze.
--I THOUGHT OF IT
Long-ggg...
YOU'VE APPEARED, ICHIMATSU!
Let's cut her hair and take her.
Let's go to-gether...

turn
I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR SCREAMS
AMANAN!

I CAN'T GO WITH YOU!
WHERE DO YOU THINK THIS PLACE IS?
BUT IF YOU'RE LONELY THEN YOU SHOULD JUST STAY HERE!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WE'LL TAKE CARE OF ALL OF YOU.
YOU SHOULD STAY AND REST.
NONE OF US WILL RUN AWAY
HUH?

IF IT'S ALRIGHT, I'LL LISTEN TO YOU.
FOR INSTANCE, ICHIMATSU...
ABOUT YOUR REAL NAME
—the 3rd way was...
scratch
.....

To face
it straight
on.


STRAIGHTEN!
Yes sir!
I WON'T DO THAT
TCH
JUST 'CAUSE ROKUSHO-SAN IS NICE DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN MESS AROUND
Being a modest worker now
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BACK TO TRYING TO FIND SOME-ONE TO ATTACH TO
STRAIGHTEN
Eeeek
I'M VERY SORRY!
GEEZ, SCARING US LIKE THAT BEFORE
SCARING US LIKE THAT.
YEAH IT'S A PITY, SASAFUNE
FOR YOU TOO
DON'T YOU WANT TO FIND A NEW GUEST?
A more decent kind...
BY BRINGING MAKOU OVER, IT HELPS TO IMPROVE THE FOOD FROM BEING JUST SASAFUNE'S RICE, BUT...
BUT IT SEEMS THAT MAKOU IS NECESSA-RY UNTIL EVERYONE'S SATISFIED
CLANK

I SEE.
AND I
HAVE TO FIND OUT WHY I'M AFFECTED SO MUCH
STARE
?
Don't look at me like that
BOW
I'LL TRY NOT TO CAUSE ANY HARM.
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO STAY AT KAIKUTEI A LITTLE LONGER
SASUFUNE,

...isn't going to be something short-lived after all
Because we've met after such circumstances——
I'LL TRY MY BEST
The connection between this strange inn and my fate...
...maybe in fact...
I'M COUNTING ON YOU
GRIN
IT MATCHED YOU, SO I THOUGHT IT'D BE A SHAME NOT TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT
Haha, sorry sorry
POUND
WAHHHHHHH!
POUND
POUND

PART 3 / END

Meguru Kakuutei

v01 c03

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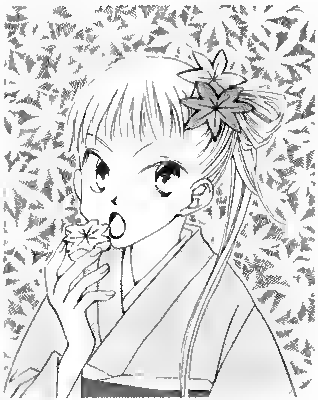
Preview cut 2

Once my friend bought me a shoujo-paper for my birthday.

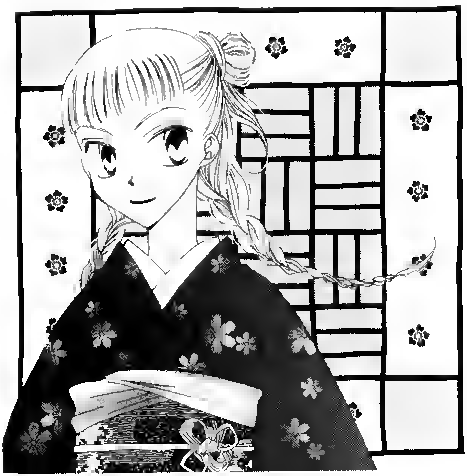


Tried to draw with a Hiroshima style in mind

Preview cut 3

Preview
cut 4

Background art
I saw a design on my optometrist's floor and thought it looked impressive so I decided to draw it myself. I thought I'd had it down but when I got home I couldn't get it to look right, so this is what happened.



MEGURU KAKIUCHI
FINAL PART

Mother?
...Sister...
...Kanoko's here.

Don't just stand there.
Come on in.
You have to say goodbye.

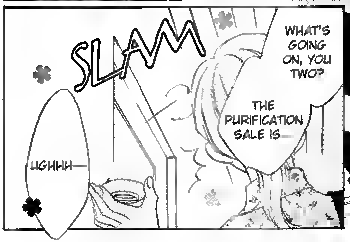
Night of Yukimura's family wake
YOSHI-FUNE-SENSEI.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
I WAS KEEPING THIS FOR THE DECEASED.
APPARENTLY IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH A NOVEL OF GRAND-UNCLE'S
IT SEEMS AS IF HE WANTED TO GIVE THIS TO YOU RECENTLY, BUT
Since something like this happened first
WHAT...!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE GONE THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE LOOKING THROUGH GRANDUNCLE'S RESEARCH...
...TO THINK THAT THERE WAS STILL SOMETHING LIKE THIS LEFT
Oh, no
SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU
IT'S NOTHING THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE

Yukimura Chidori's niece Kanoko has passed away.
Meiji novelist Yukimura Chidori.
His unpublished work "Kakuutei" was granted a soul and attached itself to human beings
But after circling around and attaching to me...
"Kakuutei" has become strange.
..what happened at the inn...
...started to appear as a continuation of the manuscript.
Even when trying to attach it to someone else...
...it wouldn't transfer away.

Thank you, Sasafune——
HUH?
...the first human that Kakuutei attached itself to.
——Kanoko was...
The meaning's unknown too.
GRAMPS NOTIFIED ME.
I was like her mother or something.
WHEN SHE CAME HERE SHE WAS LIKE THIS HEIGHT.
THAT TINY LITTLE KANOKO?
Huh?
AS A REPRE-SENTATIVE OF THIS PLACE?
SHOULD I GO ALONG TOO, AMANAN?
HE WAS GOING TO HER WAKE BUT

Am I getting used to Kakuutei?
PATTERPATTERPATTER
!?
KURROOL
thunk
SASAFUNE,
IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
Agitte Agitte
THIS RECORD
It's...

THUD THUD THUD THUD


SLAM
WHAT'S GOING ON, YOU TWO?
THE PURIFICATION SALE IS—
UGHHH—

APPARENTLY A MEMO WITH "KAKUJITEI'S" PLOT!
Sasafune's household

THIS IS A GREAT DISCOVERY
THESE THINGS SURE ARE LYING AROUND
MAYBE WE'LL FIND SOMETHING OUT ABOUT KAKUJITEI'S SITUATION IN HERE

I WONDER WHY THIS WAS LEFT AWAY...
KANOKO WAS YUKIMURA'S SISTER'S DAUGHTER, RIGHT?
YEAH
HIS SISTER'S NAME WAS KOU
SHE ALSO DIED YOUNG.
SHE PASSED AWAY A YEAR BEFORE YUKIMURA.
I SEE
Well...
THIS IS UNEXPECTED
"KAKUITEI" WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A TRAGIC LOVE STORY

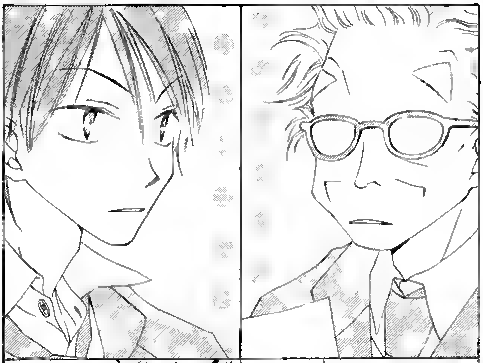
More about Kakuutei

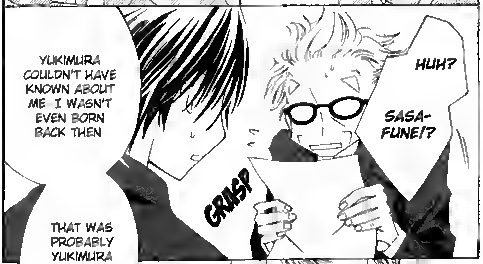
Even though he's a novelist I missed out on a scene of Sasafune actually writing anything. He was supposed to be writing on a PC and not by hand. Amanan's one piece and geta outfit was inspired by someone I saw wearing something similar. I thought it was cute. As for the tiny Kakuutei, at first it was envisioned as the size of a matchstick, but now it's not that small is it... Maybe the size of an orange...?

IN REALITY IT'S HARD TO PIN AMANAN AS THAT KIND OF PERSON...
HMMMM
IT DOESN'T MATCH...
Lemme see
OF COURSE
Huh?
WITH AMANAN AS THE PROTA-GONIST?
THAT'S NOT RIGHT. HE WAS SO EMOTIONALLY CONNECTED TO IT.
...A MISCAST?
Hm hm
NOW THAT YOU SAY THAT...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
HERE'S A DESCRIPTION OF HER LOVER. BUT——
FOR EXAMPLE IN THE MANUSCRIPT, HER LOVER NEVER APPEARED.
THE ANSWER IS A MYSTERY YUKIMURA PASSED AWAY BEFORE HE COULD REACH THE MAIN PLOT

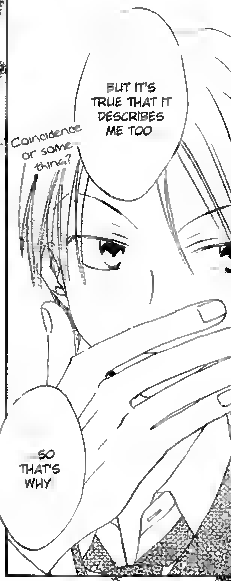
BGM and me

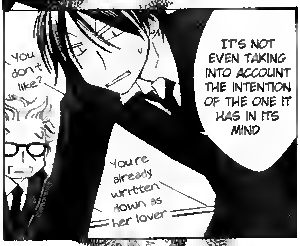
Sometimes I'm asked what kind of music I like to listen to but the truth is that I'm not partial to anything. The only music I hear at work is from my pen. I need it to be quiet to concentrate. But as for the music I've listened to lately, it's just been borrowed or given to me, and it's been around 8 months since I've bought my own... I'd like to be able to enjoy music more in the future...



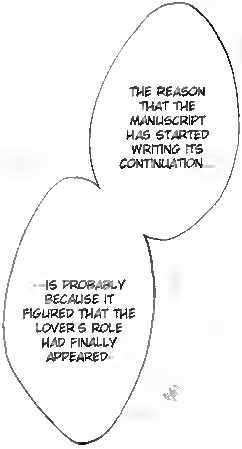

YUKIMURA COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN ABOUT ME. I WASN'T EVEN BORN BACK THEN
HUH?
SASA-FUNE!?
GRASP
THAT WAS PROBABLY YUKIMURA USING HIMSELF AS A MODEL

MAYBE "KAKUITEI" IS TRYING TO MOVE ITS PLOT AS IT WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED EVEN NOW
TOWARDS A TRAGIC LOVE STORY


BUT IT'S TRUE THAT IT DESCRIBES ME TOO
Coincidence or something?
SO THAT'S WHY

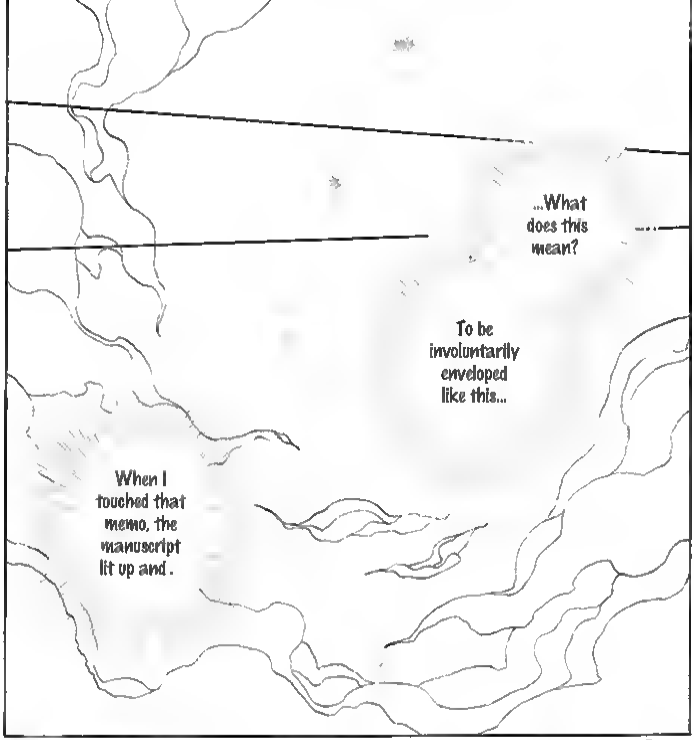

IT'S NOT EVEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INTENTION OF THE ONE IT HAS IN ITS MIND
You don't like?
You're already written down as her lover

I see
LET'S KEEP INSPECTING THIS
YEAH
SASAFUNE YOU'VE BROUGHT THE MANUSCRIPT FOR "KAKUITEI," RIGHT?


THE REASON THAT THE MANUSCRIPT HAS STARTED WRITING ITS CONTINUATION
IS PROBABLY BECAUSE IT FIGURED THAT THE LOVER'S ROLE HAD FINALLY APPEARED

Hmm
OUT OF CURIOSITY, WHAT'S THE CONCLUSION?
WAIT ONE MOMENT—
IS IT THIS?
WHICH ONE IS IT?
RUSTLE
HUH?

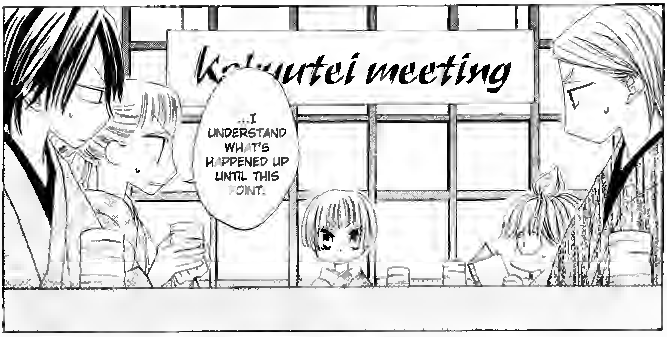
POOF
SASAFUNE!?
PIOP
RUSTLE

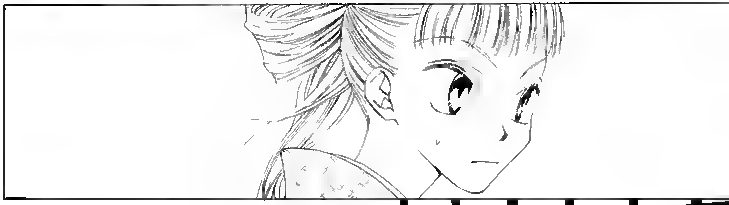

...What does this mean?
To be involuntarily enveloped like this...
When I touched that memo, the manuscript lit up and.

Is she transparent?
WHO ARE YOU ?
gulp
I GUESS, THIS IS KAKUITE!
...IS IT 'CAUSE OF THAT?
HOW NOSTALGIC

YUKIMURA CHIDORI'S NIECE
I AM KANOKO SASAFUNE-SAN
THANK YOU FOR COMING TO MY WAKE
I HAD HEARD THAT THE INN HAS BEEN ACTING STRANGE AFTER YOU ENTERED
I GUESS IT WAS THAT LIGHT BEFORE
I'M THINKING THAT THE PLOT BLUEPRINT MEMO SPURRED QUICKER MOVEMENTS WHEN IT WAS TOUCHED
YOU CAN CALL IT AN ILLUSION OF SORTS
A ghost...!?
This picture is how I was when I first came here
WHEN I COULDN'T ESCAPE FROM THE MEMO...
I GUESS I WAS SUCKED HERE ALONG WITH YOU
BECAUSE IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY UNCLE'S SECRET, BUT--
WHY DID YOU GIVE MY GRANDFATHER WHAT YOU'D PUT AWAY FOR SO LONG--?

KAKULITEI'S
PLOT TWIST WAS PROBABLY THE ONE PART THAT MY UNCLE WANTED TO WRITE THE MOST
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?
Ushishi
IT'S PLANNING ON GOING STRAIGHT FOR THE PLOT TWIST
SAGAFUNE,
HOW'D YOU GET IN WITHOUT USING A TICKET—
PATTER PATTER
Huh
KANOKO!?
YOU'RE TRANS-PARENT!?
PERHAPS
THIS INN
—HAS BEEN CIRCLING AROUND SEARCHING FOR ITS CONCLUSION—


Kokuritei meeting
...I UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENED UP UNTIL THIS POINT.



ONE SIDED LOVE?
I THINK IT WAS MUTUAL
...BUT FOR SOME INEVITABLE REASON THE WOMAN WAS MARRIED TO ANOTHER MAN AND...
IT SEEMS THAT MY UNCLE WAS IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE HE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO BE WITH
I ONLY NOTICED LATER
...I WAS BORN

Huh?
SHE WAS HIS SISTER AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED
—THEN "KAKUUTEI" CAME BECAUSE OF HIS FORBIDDEN LOVE
BECAUSE SASAFUNE IS PLAYING THE PART OF ONE WHO WAS MODELED AFTER YUKIMURA HIMSELF, RIGHT?
Ohhh
KANOKO, YOUR MOTHER WAS...
YUKIMURA'S OLDER SISTER, RIGHT...?
Her name was Kou?
YES
SO IN OTHER WORDS, MY MODEL WAS KOU...
Nod

MY MOTHER DIED AND LEFT MY UNCLE
KNOWING THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE LONG TO LIVE HIMSELF, MY UNCLE...
REALLY WANTED TO FOLLOW HER THERE
BUT HE COULDN'T
IF HE DID SOMETHING SO RASH...
HIS FEELINGS WOULD HAVE COME TO LIGHT AND HURT MANY PEOPLE
SO AT THE VERY LEAST, IN THE NOVEL—
IN OTHER WORDS, "KAKUTEI'S" CONCLUSION IS

...A double suicide.
Memo
GRAB
SASAFUNE, IT'S BETTER IF YOU GO HOME
...CAN'T HAPPEN
THAT
EVEN IF IT'S YUKIMURA'S WILL...

STICK
AMANAN?
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
WHAT'S WITH THESE CLOUDS—
GRT
IT DOESN'T WANT TO LET YOU GO HOME
GUESS THAT MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO JUMP OFF OF.
IT'S BECOMING A WALL SURROUNDING THE INN.

Is this the reason why we were given souls?
TOKUSHO,
I WANT YOU TO GATHER EVERYONE AND MAKE A HOLE THROUGH THIS WALL.
I WILL TRY.
SORRY SASAFUNE
FOR GETTING YOU INVOLVED IN THIS
NAH
IT'S NOT YOUR OR ANYONE ELSE'S FAULT
AMANAN?
I WAS THE ONE WHO
BUT

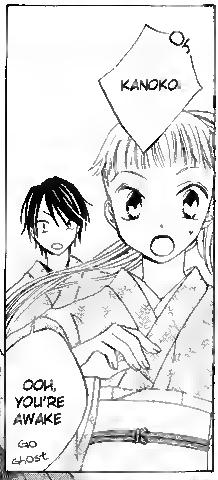
I DIDN'T NOTICE...
OOP?
I'M NOT PLANNING ON A DOUBLE SUICIDE, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
HUH?
HUH?
IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY SLEEVE?
GRAB
I KNOW, I KNOW
I DON'T PLAN ON IT EITHER

Because...

We're not even lovers.
...Yet"?
Yet.
SILENCE
I POKE
WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE WALL OF CLOUDS?
!?

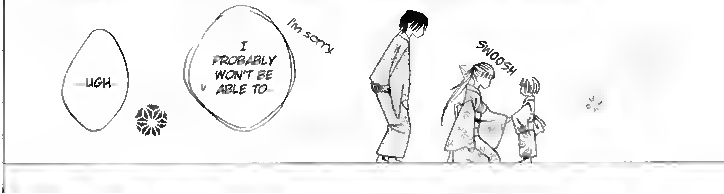
Zzz
Zzzz
EVERYONE'S ASLEEP...!?

FOR SOME REASON EVERYONE'S SUDDENLY FALLEN ASLEEP
AND THEY WON'T WAKE UP
IT'S AFFECTING MORE AND MORE PEOPLE.


Oh, KANOKO.
OOH, YOU'RE AWAKE
GO GHOST.

Patter patter patter-patter...
IS EVERYONE SLEEPING!?
AHHH— SASAFUNE EVERYONE'S OUT HERE TOO

SWOOSH
The only one who can save us is Kanoko
BUT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, STOP US.
WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF DOUBLE SUICIDE.


UGH.
I PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO
I'm sorry
SWOOSH

At this time, Yoshifune.
EVEN IF I WRITE THINGS IT'S NOT WORKING
Aaaah!
What should I do
From the edge of the wall of clouds
suddenly sealed up, unable to be prodded through
And the more one climbs, the higher up it goes it seems that there's no escaping—
THIS IS BAD
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT MUST BE WRITTEN IN THAT MANUSCRIPT!
IF I CAN'T GO BACK—
EVENTUALLY MY LIFE FORCE WILL BE COMPLETELY DRAINED OUT AND I'LL DIE
Ok Ok
AND IF THAT HAPPENS WE'LL DIE TOO
YUKIMURA, YOU BASTARD
This is

...what I was left with...
AMANAN?
...in order to complete...
...this circle.
BAM

HUH?
SWISH
AMA...
SWISH

My body's moving on its own...

...trying to stop the breath of...

...a love that hadn't even begun...

AMANAN, STOP IT!
I BEG YOU, DON'T BECOME THE SLAVE OF A MEMO!
GRIP GRIP
PULL
GAH
TUG

PLOP
If only you could go together...
You must have suffered so much if something like this should redeem you.
GRIT
Is this how you intended to be redeemed, Yukimura?
You wanted to be taken with her...
And you entrusted those feelings within Amanan.

Kick
grip
It doesn't...
DRAG
...match
Amanan——
A...
GRAB
AMA...NAN!

TUG TUG
GRIT
THE REASON
WHY YUKIMURA COULDN'T LOOK AT YOU
I THINK I UNDERSTAND IT
CAN'T

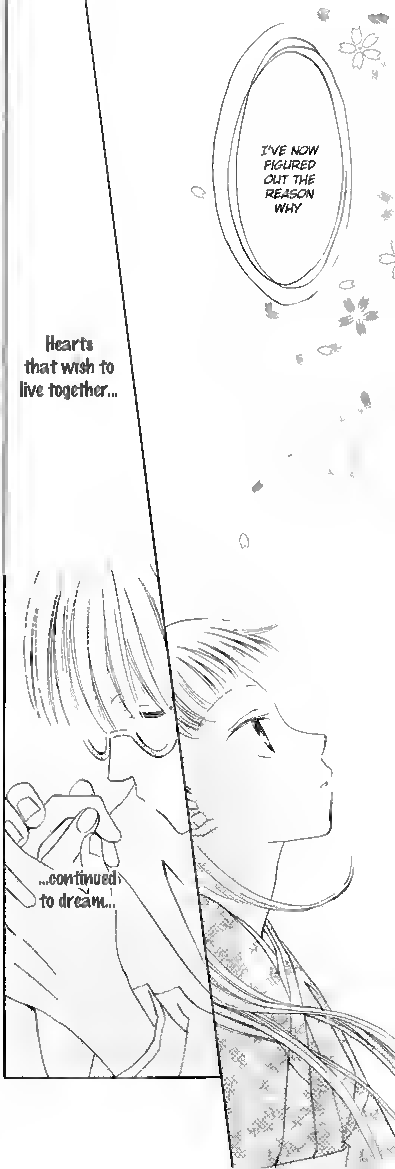
RELEASE
YOU CAN'T DIE—!
Co-
lush,
Coush,
Coush,
"Amanan" was his inner prayer.
SASAFUNE!

puff
puff
puff
I'M SORRY SASAFUNE—SASAFUNE—!
WOMMY WOMMY
cough cough
AY
I'M OKAY
WAHHHHH!
wheeze wheeze

KANOKO!
YOUR BODY
THANK GOODNESS,
AMANAN
SIGH
I'LL GO NOW.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE MEMO'S BURNED UP
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT DOUBLE SUICIDE ANYMORE
?
HUH?
I STRANGELY LIKE THIS INN
ALTHOUGH MY MOTHER'S AND UNCLE'S SECRET HURTS ME

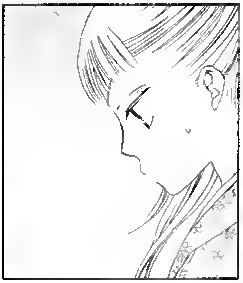
...in purity.

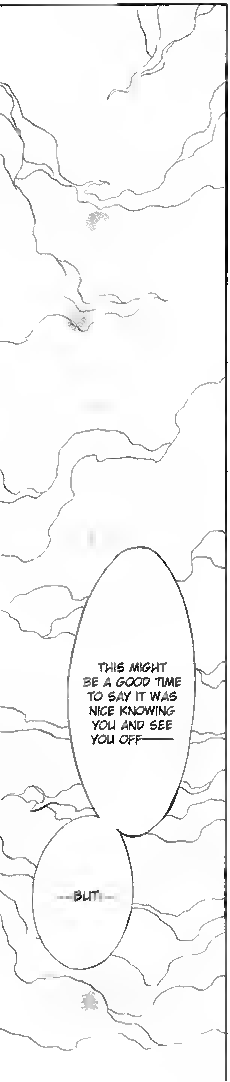
Hearts that wish to live together...

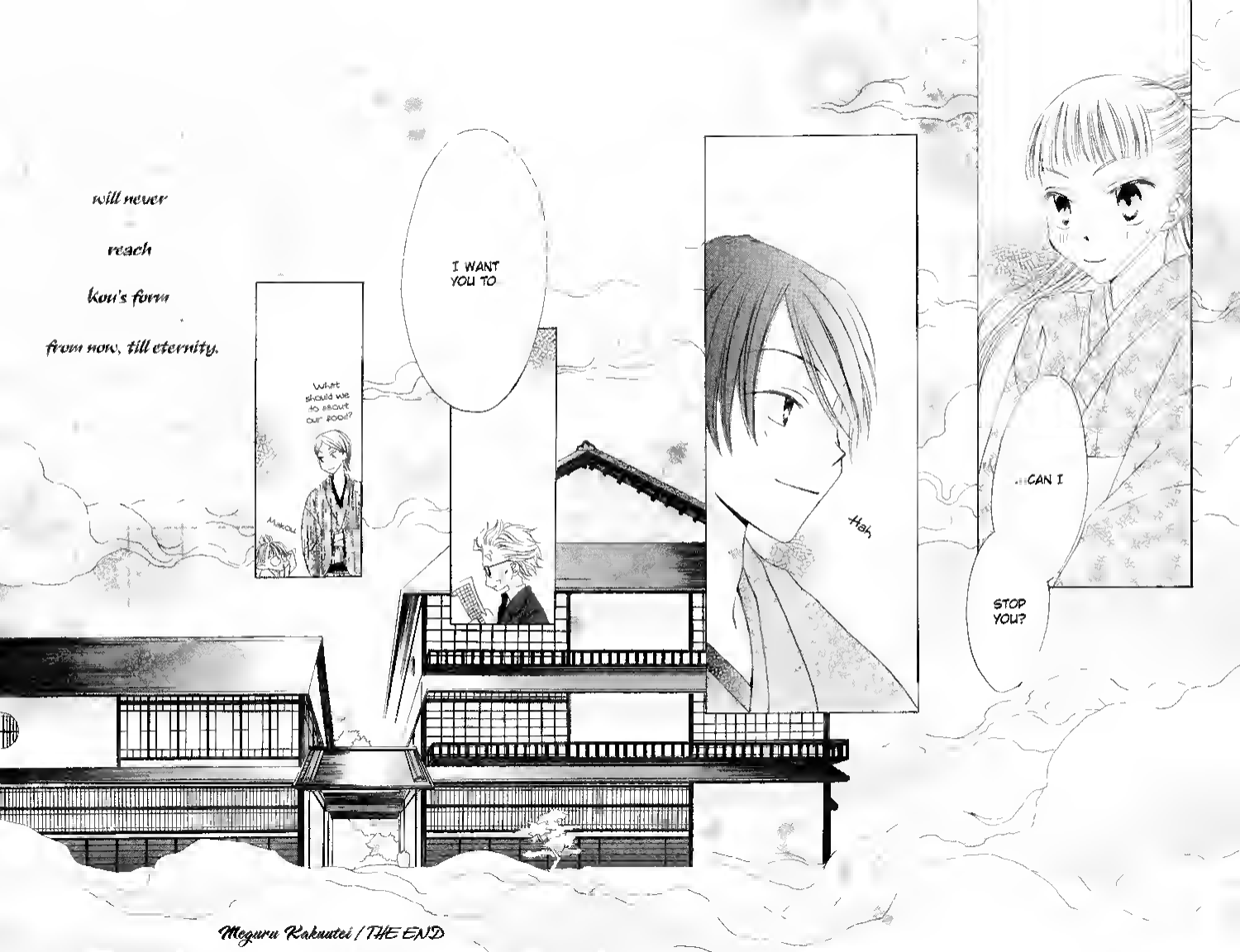


...continued to dream...

..that will reach Kou's form.






will never
reach
kou's form
from now, till eternity.
What should we do about our room?
Makou
I WANT YOU TO
Hah
...CAN I STOP YOU?

Meguru Kakuutei

v01 c04 (end)

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T/N. Title Literally translates as "the 999th flower" but relates to the #999 on Hana's hand

999 Banme no Hana

—AND THIS IS THE LIBRARY
AT THE END IS WHERE YOU PURCHASE
AND IF YOU EXIT HERE- IT'S THE GYMNASIUM
AND THIS IS SCHOOL'S LIVING LEGEND.
IT'S THE "SENNEN-ZAKURA"!
WATARAI-SAN!
WOOOW—

Sennenzakura = thousand year cherry blossom tree

I transferred to this high school today
My name is Watarai Hana.
First year, group 8 number 41
BA——M
THIS SURE IS A BIG STUMP, YOSHINO-SAN!
IT'S SO FAMOUS THAT EVERYONE AROUND HERE KNOWS 'BOUT IT.
IT'S A THOUSAND YEARS OLD JUST LIKE ITS NAME.
Yoshino-san's classmate
AMAZING!

THE REASON WHY THIS SAKURA IS SO FAMOUS IS NOT JUST BECAUSE OF ITS LOOKS
Finally a day off
*They walked around the tree
IT'S BECAUSE THE SAKURA'S SPIRIT LIVES HERE
AND WHAT'S THE LEGEND?
ITS NAME IS "SEN"
IT LOVES PARTIES AND FESTIVALS
OHHHH
CRACKLE
!?

ARE YOU OKAY, WATARAI-SAN?
IT FELT HOT FOR A MOMENT.
WHAT...
LET ME SEE YOUR HAND
999
WHA...
WHAT IS THIS NUMBER!?

A curse!?
OH MY! A PERSON WITH NUMBERS!
I'LL BRING "NUMBER 1"!
A person with numbers!?
What's that?
WAIT HERE.
HUH---
YOSHINO-SAN!
IT'LL BE FASTER IF YOU JUST MEET 'EM!
What's going on!?

TA
DA
THIRD YEAR, GROUP 1, NUMBER 1 AND
"NUMBER 1"
AMEMIYA FUJITO
chatter chatter
Ohhh,
It's been a while.
It's a person with numbers!
FIRST YEAR GROUP 8, NUMBER 41
WATARAI HANA
He really is number one...
chatter chatter
qqq
"NUMBER 999"
YOU WOULD FUSS, WOULDN'T YOU...
Yes yes
fuss fuss
...

WHEN STUDENTS TOUCH THIS SENNEN-ZAKURA,
NUMBERS LIKE THIS APPEAR ON THEIR PALM.
THE KEY IS THE NUMBER OF WHEN YOU ENROLLED INTO THIS SCHOOL.
Out of all 999 students here I'm number 1 and you're number 999
BUT NOW THERE AREN'T OTHERS WHO HAVE THESE NUMBERS THOUGH.
THEN WHY WOULD I...?
I THINK IT'S A NUMBER THAT HAS SPECIAL ABILITIES.

th
ump
SINCE IT'S THE NUMBER CLOSEST TO HIM.
...YOU MEAN THE SAKURA'S SPIRIT \ "SEN"...?
HE'S A "LIVING LEGEND."
PEOPLE WHO'VE MET SEN IN PERSON, SAY "YES"
YES
YES
YES

Who knows
What's going on?
BY HAVING ALL THE PEOPLE NUMBERED UP TO 1000 HOLDING HANDS,
THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO SUMMON SEN
WATARAI-SAN
CAN WE CALL HIM OUT TOGETHER...?

I WANT TO SAVE SEN
HUH?

I WANT TO WAGER ON YOU, 999
JUST PRETEND YOU'VE BEEN FOOLED AND TAKE THIS HAND?
OKAY?
999

WOOSH

Wobble

MUST PREPARE FOR THE BANQUET...
TOPPLE
wobble wobble
UGHHH
EH?
HE'S WEAKENED
THERE USED TO BE MORE NUMBERED PEOPLE,
BUT THE REASON THERE AREN'T AS MANY IS BECAUSE SEN'S GOTTEN WEAK...
Time to prepare for the feast
Sen has come out.
Hurry Hurry
Chatter Chatter

Um
YOU'RE WELCOME
THANKS, HANA
I'VE BEEN SAVED BECAUSE YOU TRANSFERED HERE
It's been years since I've been called "Ouri-kun"
HE'S NOT REALLY WHAT I EXPECTED

BY THE WAY, AMEMIYA-SENPAI

Gulp gulp
Ahhh
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO HOLD MY HAND...?
IN REALITY,
EVEN IF WE RELEASE HANDS, SEN WOULDN'T DISAPPEAR FOR AN HOUR, BUT

THE REASON IS BECAUSE THE TREE TRUNK IS STARTING TO WITHER
Ohhhh
UNFORTUNATE UNFORTUNATE
HE'S LIKE A NATURAL MONUMENT, SO EVERYONE'S WORRIED ABOUT HIM
an offering
I THOUGHT I COULDN'T COME BACK OUT AGAIN

Ah, what's wrong!
SINCE HE'S WEAKENED, WE HAVE TO KEEP HOLDING HANDS FOR HIM TO STAY.
POOF
POOF
grin
SORRY, HOLD OUT FOR ME?
BLUSH
OKAY
IN HONOR OF SEN'S RETURN,
KANPAI—!!
Ohhh?

FLOAT
HEY, HANA, HAVE SOME FUN.
WANT ME TO POUR ONE FOR YOU?
YOU REALLY LIKE PARTIES, DON'T YOU?
GETTING ALL PUMPED UP WHEN YOU'RE WEAK.
ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY?
CHEER CHEER
WHEN THERE ARE PARTIES,
THERE'S A LOT OF HUMAN ENERGY FLOWING, SO I'M ALRIGHT.
SO THAT'S WHAT IT'S ABOUT.
THAT'S WHY YOU LIKE FESTIVALS SO MUCH
THAT'S RIGHT.
WELL, HAPPY FEELINGS ALWAYS PROVIDE NOURISHMENT.

THAT'S RIGHT.
YOUR CRUSH MIGHT HELP ME TOO.
WELL, I CAN'T IGNORE AMEMIYA EITHER.
DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
NOT AT ALL
Those two sure get along.
"I WANT TO SAVE SEN"
YOU'VE GROWN A LOT SINCE I LAST SAW YOU
YEAH.
Because they're friends..

WATARAI-SAN
WILL YOU HELP?
FROM NOW ON, EVERYDAY IS A FESTIVAL!
IN ORDER TO KEEP SEN'S ENERGY HIGH,
Ye
aaah!
Principal
Y-
YES.
Gladly!
Cheers
And somehow...

In order to help the weakened sakura spirit ..
after school we had festivities.
PATTER PATTER PATTER
Myself and my crush—
clang
I'M LATE!
Oh, she's here, she's here
WELCOME BACK FROM DETENTION, WATARAI-SAN.
So
SORRY, I'M NOT VERY GOOD WITH MATH.
I failed miniest
Welcome back
REALLY!?
Science
IT'S FUN IF YOU UNDER-STAND IT.
WANT ME TO TEACH YOU NEXT TIME?
Yeah, no problem.
SO CHEER UP.

Each time we hold hands,
each time he looks towards me I'm happy.

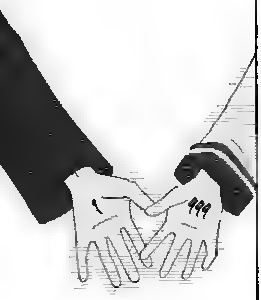
Even when I see him between classes.
I dropped my eraser.
I have two. do you need one?
OH, YOU'RE ALONE TODAY?
OH!
YOSHINO-SAN HAS DAY DUTIES.
Work

Slowly...

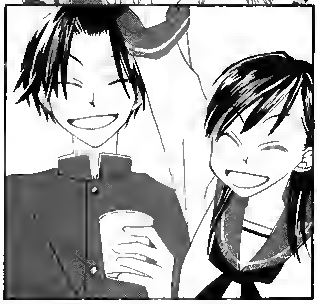
I'm really falling for him.

And Sen.

slowly seems to be getting better.

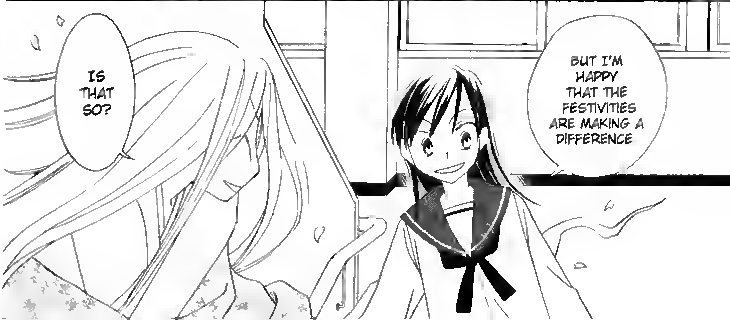


This time it's 10 minutes!! It's my newest best!
Yaaaa



He doesn't disappear as soon as we stop holding hands,
and he's able to stay longer each time.

Eh...
A LITTLE
Lost at rock-paper scissors and is going to buy juice
Awaiting Hana
IT'S A LITTLE BORING, ISN'T IT HANA?


IS THAT SO?
BUT I'M HAPPY THAT THE FESTIVITIES ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

YOUR LOVE IS BLOSSOMING TOO
I'M REALLY MAGNIFICENT IN FULL BLOOM, YOU KNOW?
IT'S LIKE "SPRING IS HEREEEEEE!" WHEN YOU'RE WITH AMEMIYA
IT'S NICE TO BE AROUND YOU
Am I that obvious?
I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NUMBERED, BUT THE ENERGY YOU EMIT IS STRONG
I FEEL STRONGER
THAT'S RIGHT, A SAKURA NEEDS SPRING
I WANT TO SEE THE THOUSAND YEAR SAKURA BLOOM

I WON'T BORE YOU, SO COME EVERY DAY
THAT SOUNDS NICE. I WANT TO SEE THE FLOWERS.
STANDING GHOSTLY IN THE DARK NIGHTS.
STANDING PROUD UNDER THE SPRING RAIN-DROPS.
THE AIRY BREEZE AND BLUE SKY ARE WITH ME..
THAT'S ESPE-CIALLY GOOD!
THAT'S GOOD TOO!
OHHH, NUMBER 1 IN JAPAN!
STUMP. HUH——
It's still a stump as usual
BUT STILL,
MY REAL SELF ISN'T GETTING MUCH BETTER FOR NOW.

IF ONLY WE HAD SOME EXCUSE, WE'D BE ABLE TO HOLD A LARGER EVENT HERE ONCE...
Everyone was saying.
WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT IS?
IT'S THIS!

SEEING THE MOON?
AFTER CLASS...
YES.
IF WE GATHER NEIGHBORHOOD PEOPLE AND HAVE A MAGNIFICENT GATHERING, MAYBE SEN'S REAL FORM WILL GET BETTER
CHEER
HOW ABOUT WE MIX IT UP A BIT!
SOUNDS GOOD
LET'S DO IT, LET'S DO IT

NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED, WE'D BETTER START PREPARING
YES
You're a genius!!
squeeze
Moon viewing festival
3 days until the festival

WATARAI-SAN, CARRY THIS TO THE ROOFTOP
Container
OKAY
CUSTOMERS ARE POURING IN.
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE'D BETTER HURRY!
Oh, that's nice
A sunny balloon!
Say, look it's a sunny jelly-o!
Hehehehe
I'M SO POPULAR.
GOOD FOR YOU
Container

Hm
COME TO THINK OF IT, AMEMIYA'S NOT AROUND
Hm
GOING TO DISAPPEAR IN ABOUT 3 MINUTES.
WHERE'D HE GO?
I'LL NEED HIM TO HOLD HANDS WITH YOU SOON.
Oh
SORRY, I FORGOT.
YOU KIND OF TAKING IT EASY, THINKING YOU WON'T DISAP-PEAR RIGHT AWAY?
AFTER I PUT THIS DOWN LET'S GO LOOK FOR HIM
Okay?
YOSHINO-S/N...

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN WATCHING YOU
Container

I LOVE YOU
HIDES
patter
patter
CAN I ASK YOU...
HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT ME...?
—SENPAI WAS...
SO...
ALWAYS NICE TO WATARAI-SAN,
SO I THOUGHT YOU LIKED HER...

I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF YOU THAT WAY
HE WAS REJECTED?!
Oh?
I DIDN'T WANT TO CONSIDER IT
PLEASE GIVE ME SOME TIME
bow
SIGH
Aah!
How depressing

I WONDER HOW SENPAI MUST HAVE FELT...
HOLDING HANDS WITH ME NEXT TO YOSHINO-SAN
AHH
depression
YOSHINO-SAN TOO
I WAS JUST...
...BEING SELF-CENTERED.
But...

KYAAAA!!
GYAAA
!?
Jolt
...Amemiya-senpai never made a disgusted face.
WHAT?
FROM OVER HERE
YO...
YOSHINO-SAN!
DID YOU TRY TO SAVE THAT CHILD!?

It's Sen
YOSHINO, NICE WORK
HOLD ON TIGHTLY
yoink
Gyaaa...
yoink
grip
SEN!
WATARAI-SAN!
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
OHH—
I WAS SO SCARED!
I like her too.
I think I understand...
...why Sanpei likes Yoshino-san.

But...
IT SURE IS HIGH...
THUD
THUD
THUD
ARE YOU OKAY!?
OKAY, LET'S GO BACK UP.
OH, AMEMIYA.
GOOD TIMING
SEN...
OH!
THIS IS BAD!
YOUR BODY IS STARTING TO FADE...!
!!
SWOOSH

Jump
HANA, YOSHINO,
JUMP OVER!
Tch.
MY TIME'S RUN OUT.
GRAB THE KID, AMEMIYA!
CRASH!!

U...
WAH—

HANA,
HOLD HANDS WITH AMEMIYA
Then I'll be one, too.
I-
I CAN'T
THE HAND I'M GRABBING ON, IS THE HAND WITH THE NUMBER.
.....
AMEMIYA-SENPAI!
What a nice person.
GET YOSHINO-SAN, HURRY!

WATARAI-SAN
There's no need to think about it.
HURRY!
Hurry and take the hand you've always wanted to.
YOSHINO-SAN'S ENERGY'S ALREADY DRAINED FROM HOLDING THE CHILD ..
HER ARM MUST BE STRAINED.
Now, take it.

patter patter patter
OVER HERE, HURRY!
WE'VE COME TO HELP.
HEY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
HANA, JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
PEOPLE ARE COMING!
Ugh...
MY HAND'S SLIPPERY...
COME TO THINK OF IT, SEN,
YOU SAID MY LOVE WOULD AFFECT YOUR BODY, RIGHT?
Gaaaaah
SORRY FOR THE BAD TIMING.
WAHHH— SUCH DEPRESSING AURA! I'M DISAPPEARING EVEN QUICKER!

YOU BACKED DOWN WELL.
JUST STAND PROUD.
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, BUT...
BUT STILL...
I CAN'T FEEL HAPPY.
SLIP
SEN,
INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING SOMEONE ELSE'S LOVE...
WOULDN'T FALLING IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE HELP YOU MORE?

That's a nice idea!
OH
THAT IS, IF THERE'S SOMEONE THERE, THOUGH
RIGHT?
SLIP
WATARAI-SAN!
Someone...

...to fall
in love
with—
CRACKLE

BLOOM

blink

AMAZING...
WHAT HAPPENED?
THE THOUSAND YEARS SAKURA IS BACK IN BLOOM.
SEN
THIS IS...

I'VE FOUND...
A GOOD PERSON
WHY ARE YOU CONFUSED, HANA?
IT'S YOU

That night..
the sakura blossoming overshadowed the brilliance of the full moon
Ohh, very nice very nice
Blushhh
It must have stolen the hearts of many others, including my own.
Even though I just lost my crush, my heart is fluttering.. I
I'm so sad.
I made her embarrassed!
Yaaaay me!

999 banme no hana / END

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
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extra story
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